



EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/12/09
HB 414

214 East 3rd Street Libby, Montana 59923 (406)293-9274 fax:(406)293-9280

My name is Brad Black and I have been a physician in the practice of medicine in the Libby community since July of 1977. In 1983, I also became the Lincoln County Health Officer and continue to this day to serve in a consultative role.

My first awareness of an asbestos problem in Libby vermiculite workers was in 1978 when my practice partner, the late Richard Irons, MD, brought several cases to my attention. We were both somewhat surprised. Irons was motivated to travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts to meet with WR Grace management bringing with him an offer to work with the company to develop an extensive asbestos health screening program that would involve workers and family members. He also had concern over take home asbestos via clothing, etc., that could impact the community.

No action occurred from this attempt. It was the early to mid 1980s' when the EPA investigated potential public health concerns over the Grace products. Unfortunately there was an assumption that adequate scrutiny had occurred and that there was no ongoing hazardous asbestos exposure. It was the late 1990s' when cases of asbestos related disease were identified in Libby residents whose only source of asbestos exposure was environmental. Soon thereafter, the suspicion of wide spread environmental exposure to asbestos was revealed in a series of articles in the Seattle PI. The potential of a very large health impact appeared likely to develop. With the support of Senator Max Baucus, the community responded by developing the Center for Asbestos Related Disease. This infrastructure was developed to meet the anticipated special needs that would evolve out of the asbestos screening and ongoing monitoring of the exposed Libby population.

Since the clinic opened in July of 2000 we have seen over 2600 people with varied degrees of asbestos induced problems. In addition to specialized asbestos healthcare, CARD has put programs in place for community outreach, education, and case management. In the last 9 years, I have been providing pulmonary care for many patients whom I have known and provided care to since I have lived in Libby.

It has been very humbling and painful to see the number of people afflicted with disabling lung disease, cancer, and mesotheliomas. In addition to the previous Zonolite workers and family members, those who played in ore piles and just lived and worked in the community have been severely affected. Since 1996, 11 mesotheliomas caused by environmental exposure have been documented to have occurred. And, last summer (2008), the National Center for Health Statistics (Center for Disease Control) released the Mortality Statistics for the time period of 1995-2004. Lincoln County, Montana had the highest age-adjusted asbestosis death rate by county per million population of U.S. residents age 15 and over.

For us, every day is a constant challenge when reflecting on the failures in the public health system that was partly to blame for the subsequent asbestos exposure and illnesses. That compels one to work harder to ensure that affected people receive appropriate and adequate care. WR Grace's health plan started out as an inclusive program and has continued to drastically reduce coverage for asbestos induced disease by increasing barriers to care for ill people. These actions are placing extreme demands on the LAMP program which has served to cover gaps in the Grace

Plan in addition to offering insurance coverage for full chest/breathing evaluations, diagnosis, education, and monitoring.

The LAMP insurance program monies are rapidly disappearing at a rate which should deplete the program during this year. The Libby community has a coalition working on the securing of long term asbestos health care funding. Hope is for development of a community asbestos healthcare trust, however, more time is needed. HB 414 offers essential gap funding until long term health care funding is secured. Because of the extent of asbestos related disease with associated costs of evaluation and care, the amount provided by HB 414 should be maintained at \$3.25 million. This amount would help assure vital gap funding, providing the community time to establish a trust. Additionally, the state's support of the Libby community's search for long term funding would significantly improve likelihood of success.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Black", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad Black, MD
Lincoln Co. Health Officer
Medical Director, Center for Asbestos Related Disease
214 E 3rd St
Libby, MT 59923
(406)-293-9274

TOTAL COMMITMENT

We're committed to providing our community with the care it needs. When the federal/state Medicaid/Medicare programs reimburse our hospital 46 pennies on each dollar, we're challenged to keep up with basic infrastructure upgrades and information technology improvements. However, with the support of our community, and our charitable status, we continue to advance to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community.

Here's a look at the total community benefit we provided over the last three fiscal years.

TOTAL COMMUNITY COMMITMENT FY08—FY 07—FY 06						
	CHARITY CARE:	BAD DEBT	CONTRACTUAL WRITE-OFFS	ADD'L COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOTAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT	GROSS PATIENT REVENUE
FY 2008	\$389,190	\$1,498,720	\$8,902,062	\$ 121,714	\$ 10,911,686	\$31,054,112
FY 2007	\$251,916	\$1,300,059	\$ 6,489,506	\$ 106,032	\$ 8,147,513	\$25,788,349
FY 2006	\$404,278	\$1,035,066	\$ 5,068,315	\$ 113,550	\$ 6,621,209	\$20,602,303

This Community Benefit Total is One-Third of our total revenue for the year! Few other businesses, including hospitals,

GIVE this much to their community!

We care about our community and about ensuring
Excellent Healthcare Close To Home!

St. John's Lutheran Hospital
350 Louisiana Ave
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-0100

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/12/09
HB 4/4

SJL Report

Community Benefit 2007



Fiscal Year 2008
April 1, 2007—March 31, 2008

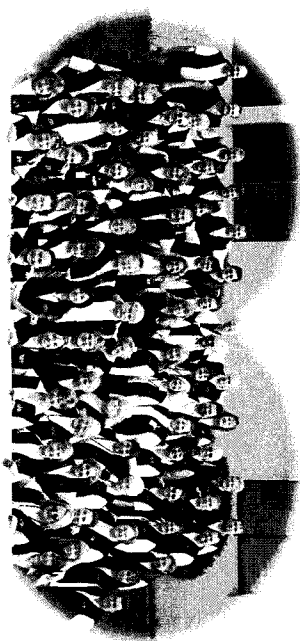
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN HOSPITAL
Excellent Healthcare Close to Home

Libby, Montana

WHO WE ARE!

We save lives... We heal and comfort the sick... We welcome new life into the world... We stop the pain and mend the breaks... We comfort loved ones... We pull together at three o'clock in the morning because you need us... We provide healthcare to all people who have critical needs, regardless of their ability to pay... We are your family, friends and neighbors, and we care about your health.

We are the employees of St. John's Lutheran Hospital!



yesterday, today, always ...

We are committed to our mission to provide "Excellent Healthcare Close to Home" by being a great place for employees to work, physicians to practice medicine, and patients to receive care.

We are a center of healing, addressing the needs of rural healthcare far beyond traditional medicine.

We are a community partner whose vision is to heal the whole patient, not just to administer medicine.

This report is intended to highlight those services which go beyond traditional medicine, and are of benefit to our community.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

UNCOMPENSATED CARE...

WHAT IS IT?

Uncompensated care is an overall measure of hospital care, provided to a patient, that has been determined to be uncollectible, meaning no payment was received either from the patient or the insurance company.

Uncompensated care is an indicator of the need for care among people who are unable or unwilling to pay, and the capacity of healthcare providers to absorb the impacts of making such care available.

Uncompensated care figures are a strong indicator of uninsured and underinsured trends in the community.

UNCOMPENSATED CARE... BREAKING IT DOWN.

BAD DEBT + CHARITY CARE = UNCOMPENSATED CARE

BAD DEBT is the unpaid obligation for care provided to patients who may be unable or unwilling to pay and do not apply for Charity Care.

CHARITY CARE is a service provided by the hospital to patients who have been deemed unable to pay for medical services rendered. The hospital determines the patient's inability to pay by reviewing many

factors including income, assets, employment, family size, etc. St. John's charity care program is called SharePay.

SHAREPAY is a sliding scale financial assistance program designed to empower uninsured and underinsured patients to meet their medical financial obligations.

Trained financial counselors are provided to offer hands-on assistance to patients applying for the SharePay program, as well as other financial assistance programs such as CHIP's, Heating Assistance, Medicaid, WIC, and case management services.

In FY 2008, this innovative program provided patients with financial counseling services and wrote-off or adjusted 680 accounts totaling \$248,862.86.

WHAT ARE CONTRACTUALS? A contractual discount is the difference between actual billed charges and the reimbursement we receive from Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance companies, based on negotiated or mandated payment rates.

More than just medicine...

OUR STORY!

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

St. John's Hospice volunteers are part of the hospice team that brings quality and comfort to the end of life experience in our community. Each year, the on-staff Hospice Volunteer Coordinator conducts 18 - 25 hours of training and information at no-charge to interested community members on all aspects of end of life care and planning.

FESTIVAL OF TREES COMMUNITY NIGHT

St. John's brings the community together to celebrate the holidays. This event brings local organizations and businesses together to decorate and display trees to be shared with the community. This evening includes music, Santa, children's activities, and more. It's a holiday tradition that attracted over 800 spectators in FY 08!

SUBSIDIZED SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAM

St. John's has partnered with the Libby School District since 2001 to keep a full-time RN on site at the Public Schools. We provided \$7,500 in FY 2008 to support this valuable service, and over \$47,500 since 2001.

JEAN'S DAY FUNDRAISER'S FOR AREA HEALTH RELATED NOT-FOR-PROFITS

We realize our healthcare community partners sometimes need financial help too. Because of this, St. John's organizes quarterly mini-fundraisers that have raised over \$11,000 (\$2,500 in FY 08) for other health related not-for-profits in the community.

WE ALSO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Career Days at local college and middle schools
- Flu shot clinics
- 55 Alive Driving Course
- Jump Rope for Heart for elementary students
- Libby Schools Wellness Committee
- Bike Safety Rodeo
- Community disaster preparedness
- Community Health Resource Calendar
- Pre-Natal Classes
- Annual St. John's Baby Birthday Party
- Lincoln County Relay for Life
- Adopt a Highway



St. John's Lutheran Hospital is a 25-bed, full service, private, not-for-profit community hospital with state-of-the-art technology necessary to provide the highest quality of healthcare services.

Our services include a 24 hour, 7 day-a-week, physician staffed emergency department, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, rehabilitation services (physical, occupational, and speech), home health-hospice, out-patient chemotherapy, diabetes/nutrition programs, full laboratory services, computerized imaging including MRI, CT, and digital mammography, cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation, ICU/CCU, sleep lab, and the quality of cuisine you would expect from a fine dining establishment.

We employ 227 professional staff members whose primary concern is the quality of the patient's experience and care. Our payroll for FY 08 was \$11.8 million dollars, giving us the honor of being the largest private employer in South Lincoln County.

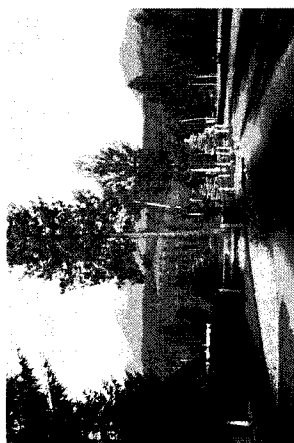
Our services are vital because we are located 90 miles away from health facilities with equal or greater services. This distance barrier is why it is so important for us to provide *Excellent Healthcare Close to Home*. Many of our citizens could not live here without the existence of St. John's.

We provide healthcare services to Lincoln County, population 18,664. Our service area includes the towns of Libby, population, 2,600 approx. and Troy, population 900 approx. We are tucked away in the northeast corner of the state, at the foot of the beautiful Cabinet Mountain Range.

Our communities are economically challenged, with 19.2% of the population of Lincoln County at or below the level of poverty, with the state average at 14.6% (Lincoln County Health Profile, DPHHS 2004).

Regardless of our economic challenges, we have overcome much adversity and continue to grow and thrive in an area that has been referred to as "next to heaven."

More than just medicine...



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ROAD TO HEALTH: HEALTH FAIR

In 1998, St. John's created this annual free interactive health extravaganza to provide the community with a chance to interact with health and wellness exhibitors from around the state. CPR, Child Find, carotid IMT testing, germ analysis, stress testing, bone density testing, blood typing, fitness evaluations, blood pressure testing, visiting with the doctor, and children's events are only a few of the fun activities at this popular event.

We offer free Lipid and Glucose screenings and discounted A1C (diabetes), PSA (prostate), TSH (thyroid), and Hemogram to fair goers, along with free consultations with area providers. In FY08 the community benefit of the health screenings alone was over \$16,000 with an additional 80+ staff hours provided by St. John's.



CORPORATE HEALTH SCREENINGS & EDUCATION

We provide free and discounted health screenings on site or in our laboratory for local businesses. We also offer "mini-health fairs" for organizations who want more in-depth employee health assessments.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Since 1999, over \$13,400 in scholarships have been provided by hospital employees to area high school students pursuing medical degrees. \$2,000 was awarded in FY08.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

St. John's offers workshops and brings in speakers to educate the public on a variety of health related topics such as osteoporosis, suicide, menopause, etc.

MONTHLY HEALTH FORUMS

St. John's offers free monthly informational forums on a variety of topics including nutrition, physical therapy, diabetes care, sleep disorders, weight management, tendonitis, brain injury, and more.

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

SULH is a clinical rotation site, in conjunction with the Libby Clinic, for the University of Washington.

JOB SHADOWING/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We offer health care experience for high school & college students in the areas of Imaging, Rehabilitation Services, Human Resources, Marketing, Nursing, Medical Records, Emergency Department, and Laboratory. In FY 2008, we hosted 8 students.

We also coordinate with Apollo College to provide a venue for practical experience.

BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS DESSERT

St. John's sponsors this annual educational event designed to provide area women and men with information and education on breast health.

EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

SUPPORT GROUPS

St. John's provides qualified facilitators and informational speakers for a variety of support groups. Our employees dedicate more than 100 hours annually to these programs.

- Diabetes Support Groups
- Sugar Buddies (St. John's Juvenile Diabetes Group)
- Cancer Support Groups

VISITING AND ON CALL CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

St. John's works with members of the local ministry to meet the spiritual needs of our patients and their families through both daily and emergency (on-call) visitation by trained volunteer clergy. We host Ministerial training workshops for our Chaplains.



TREE OF LIFE

We offer this free event to give the families and friends of passed loved ones the opportunity to remember them at the beginning of the holiday season. The event celebrated the lives of 282 people in FY 2008, and was attended by over 200 people.

